

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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MONTREAL FOR ICAO

PARIS FOR USNESCO

ROME FOR FODAG

VIENNA FOR UNIDO

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AORG

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP TWELFTH CONSULTATION LEVEL MEETING:
FIRST DAY A.M.

1. SUMMARY. TWELFTH CONSULTATION ON SPECIALIZED

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AGENCIES OPENED 4TH FEBRUARY AT WMO HEADQUARTERS, WITH

UK CO-CHAIRMAN (WEIR) PRESIDING AND ALL MEMBERS PARTICIPATING. COMPLETED REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEM I, COVERING REPORTS OF ALL LOCAL GENEVA GROUPS EXCEPT IAEA WHICH WAS POSTPONED UNTIL FEB 6. MOST REPORTS APPROVED WITHOUT MODIFICATION. U.S. PROPOSAL TO SEEK QUOTE NO PROGRAM GROWTH UNQUOTE IN ILO NOT ACCEPTED; COMPROMISE WORDING AGREED BY U.S. POLITICIZATION ITEM TO BE TAKEN UP UNDER AGENDA ITEM IV(A). CHAIR STRESSED COMPLEXITY OF NEW ISSUES ARISING IN UN AND AGENCIES AND INCREASED IMPORTANCE OF GG ACTIVITIES TO FIND NEW SOLUTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. TWELFTH CONSULTATION ON UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OPENED MORNING FEB 4TH WITH UK CO-CHAIRMAN WEIR PRESIDING. HIS OPENING REMARKS EMPHASIZED COMPLEX FUTURE FACING UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES ARISING FROM TWO CAUSES: BUDGETARY STRINGENCY; AND A FORMIDABLE ARRAY OF NEW ISSUES. ROLE OF GENEVA GROUPS ESPECIALLY USEFUL DURING THIS PERIOD.

3. AGENDA ADOPTED ON UNDERSTANDING THAT U.S. PROPOSAL REGARDING POLITICIZATION OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES WOULD BE DISCUSSED UNDER AGENDA ITEM IV(A). SCHEDULE OF ITEMS WOULD THUS BE: TUESDAY AM - ITEM I; TUESDAY PM - ITEM III; WEDNESDAY AM - ITEM 4; WEDNESDAY PM - ITEMS II, V, VI AND VII; THURSDAY AM - ITEM I(B) AND APPROVAL OF NOTE OF MEETING.

4. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS RELATE TO ITEM I, INCLUDING REPORTS OF LOCAL GENEVA GROUPS.

5. FAO.

(A) UK QUESTIONED SECRETARIAT'S PRESSURE FOR GREATER DECENTRALIZATION AND REGIONALIZATION AS UNDESIRABLE AND MORE COSTLY AT THIS STAGE IN FAO DEVELOPMENT. ALSO SUPPORTED VIEW THAT PROFITS FROM CURRENCY REVALUATIONS SHOULD NOT BE OPEN FOR SECRETARIAT USE WITHOUT APPROVAL.

(B) SWITZERLAND WAS CONCERNED OVER UNCERTAINTIES IN 1976-77 BUDGET FIGURES, WHICH SUGGEST UNPRECEDENTED

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GROWTH AND LACK OF CLEAR STATEMENT OF PRIORITIES. URGENT NEED FOR GG ROME TO FOLLOW BUDGET DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY NEXT MONTHS, MAKING CAREFUL STUDY OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE (WFC) RECOMMENDATIONS TO SEE WHETHER THESE CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED WITHIN AVAILABLE FUNDS.

(C) FRG SHARED THIS CONCERN, NOTING THAT PROPOSED INCREASE WAS 82 PERCENT. AGREED ALSO THAT LARGE BUDGET

INCREASE SHOULD NOT BE NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT WFC RECOMMENDATIONS: THESE COULD BE LARGELY DEALT WITH BY CHANGES IN FAO PRIORITIES. ADDITIONS TO STAFF SHOULD BE MADE ONLY FOR PERMANENT PROGRAMS.

(D) NETHERLANDS AND ITALY ALSO REGRETTED LACK OF ANY INDICATION OF PRIORITIES BY DIRGEN.

(E) ITALY PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT FAO INTENDED TO SET UP NEW BODIES TO DEAL WITH WFC PROGRAM RATHER THAN MAKING ADJUSTMENTS IN PRESENT PROGRAM, A TENDANCY NOW COMMON THROUGHOUT UN SYSTEM.

(F) JAPAN AND BELGIUM CONCURRED FULLY THESE VIEWS.

(G) FRANCE FELT THAT WFC HAS PUT FAO ON A NEW PATH THE DIRECTION OF WHICH IS NOT YET DISCERNIBLE. DIRGEN HAS BEEN GIVEN AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK. CAN'T BELIEVE THAT 270 MILLION DOLLARS IS SERIOUS FIGURE. FEEL MOST MEMBERS WANT TO SEE WFC PROPOSALS CARRIED OUT WITHIN EXISTING STRUCTURE FAO. THUS, GG ROME WILL HAVE TO DO CAREFUL STUDY OF THIS ISSUE AS SOON AS ALL ELEMENTS ARE KNOWN.

(H) CHAIRMAN SUMMARIZED DISCUSSION AS SUPPORTING REPORT, WITH STRONG URGING TO GG ROME THAT IT FOLLOW BUDGET DEVELOPMENTS CAREFULLY, ESPECIALLY IN CONNECTION WITH MEETINGS OF EXCOUN AND FIANACE AND PROGRAM COMMITTEES.

6. ILO.

(A) JAPAN FELT THAT QUESTION OF STRUCTURE OF ILO WAS CLOSELY TIED UP WITH SUBJECT OF POLITICIZATION. TH GG SHOULD FOLLOW THIS SUBJECT CAREFULLY WITH VIEW TO COORDINATING VIEWS WITH OTHER MEMBERS.

(B) CANADA WARNED THAT SECRETARIAT APPEARED TO BE ATTEMPTING TO CIRCUMVENT THE GOVERNING BODIES ON UNCLASSIFIED

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ITS PLANS FOR WORLD CONFERENCE ON EMPLOYMENT. IT WAS IMPERATIVE FOR GOVERNMENTS TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER THE SECRETARIAT ON AN ISSUE AS THIS, WHICH HAD IMPLICATIONS NOT ONLY ON BUDGET BUT ALSO ON RELATIONS BETWEEN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE ILO. IT SHOULD BE CAREFULLY WATCHED DURING THE FORTHCOMING SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY.

(C) THE FRG DEL SHARED THESE VIEWS AND FELT THE GG HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY. HE POINTED TO FACT THAT BUDGET WAS BASED ON CURRENCY RATE OF 3.2 SWISS FRANCS TO U.S. DOLLAR, WHICH IN LIGHT OF RECENT RATES COULD DRASTICALLY AFFECT BUDGET PLANS. IN THEIR VIEW, IT WAS UP TO DIRGEN TO INSURE THAT PRIORITY PROGRAMS ARE MET AND FUNDS USED MOST EFFICIENTLY.

(D) SWEDEN STRESSED THAT THEIR VIEWS WERE STILL

VERY PRELIMINARY BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTIES IN THE BUDGET FIGURES. FOR EXAMPLE, NUMERICAL GROWTH WORKED OUT AT 34 PERCENT IN DOLLARS, WHEREAS REAL GROWTH APPEARED TO BE ABOUT 6 PERCENT.

(E) SWEDEN IS MAKING SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS AND IS UNDER PRESSURE TO EVALUATE IMPORTANCE OF EACH OF THESE. FOR THIS REASONS THEY FAVOR WORLD EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS BUT FELT THEY SHOULD BE DIRECTED MORE TO ACTION PROGRAMS. THEY POINTED TO FACT THAT CURTAILMENT OF STAFF IN FACE OF RESTRICTED BUDGETS COULD MEAN LOSS OF MANY YOUNGER MEMBERS, SOME OF WHOM WERE HIGHLY COMPETENT.

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

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(F) ITALY FELT THAT ILO HAD CHANGED ITS ROLE IN THE FIELD OF LABOR RELATIONS BUT WAS STILL HELD IN HIGH REGARD BY HIS GOVERNMENT. NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY IN ADJUSTING TO NEW BUDGET RESTRICTIONS AND THIS APPROACH SHOULD BE CAREFULLY FOLLOWED BY LOCAL GG. U.S. PROPOSED THAT IN FACE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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BUDGET SHORTAGES ILO SHOULD (1) MAINTAIN ZERO PROGRAM GROWTH, AND (2) ABSORB THE RECENT SALARY COST INCREASES. FURTHER, PROMINENCE SHOULD BE GIVEN POPULATION PROGRAMS IN RELATION TO ILO'S BROAD LABOR PROGRAM.

(G) FRANCE, RESPONDING TO U.S. PROPOSAL, FELT CAUTION WAS REQUIRED. A PROPOSAL FOR SUCH SPECIFIC CUTS WOULD ASTONISH INTERNATIONAL LABOR. WE SHOULD LOOK AT THE PROGRAMS IN MORE DETAIL TO SEE WHERE MAJOR REDUCTIONS COULD BE MADE.

(H) FRG AND AUSTRALIA AGREED WITH THIS APPROACH. ZERO PROGRAM GROWTH APPEARED TO THEM A POOR APPROACH. ZERO PROGRAM GROWTH APPEARED TO THEM A POOR TACTIC WHICH WOULD BE REGARDED AS NOT ONLY NEGATIVE BUT EVEN DESTRUCTIVE.

(I) NETHERLANDS SHARED THIS VIEW. OVER THE YEARS THEY HAD FAVORED CONTROLLED BUDGET INCREASES AND FELT THAT SOME COMPROMISE WORKING WOULD BE DESIRABLE. THE CHAIRMAN PROPOSED THAT THE REPORT ON ILO COULD BE IMPROVED WITH THE ADDITION OF A STATEMENT INCORPORATING THESE VIEWS.

(J) AUSTRALIAN DEL REFERRED TO PROPOSAL FOR ILO TO PAY TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF DELEGATIONS. HE THOUGHT THIS WAS A HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE PROPOSAL THAT WOULD REQUIRE AMENDMENT TO THE ILO CONSTITUTION, ADDITIONAL BUDGET COSTS UP TO 8 MILLION DOLLARS AND SERIOUSLY AFFECT SIZE OF DELEGATIONS. ON THIS LAST POINT, HE FELT THERE WAS NEED FOR GUIDELINES ON SIZE AND CHARACTER OF DELEGATIONS TO ILO, AS THERE WAS OFTEN SERIOUS IMBALANCE BETWEEN EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES, AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES. BOTH JAPAN AND UK STRONGLY SUPPORTED THIS CONCERN.

7. UNCTAD.

(A) NETHERLANDS FELT THERE WAS MUCH DUPLICATION BETWEEN UN AGENCIES, PARTICULARLY ON THE SUBJECT OF TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. HE CITED ALMOST IDENTICAL

QUESTIONNAIRES SENT OUT RECENTLY BOTH BY UNCTAD AND WIPO, PRESUMABLY WITHOUT ANY CONSULTATION. GG SHOULD STUDY THOSE ECOSOC RESOLUTIONS WHICH ASSIGN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SUBJECT OF TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

(B) ITALY AND FRANCE FELT THAT UNCTAD MUST CON-
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TINUE TO BE DEPENDENT ON THE UN FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT. ANY IMPLICATION LEADING TO BUDGETARY AUTONOMY SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

8. DISCUSSION OF IAEA REPORT WAS SHIFTED TO THURSDAY AM MEETING.

9. ICAO.

(A) BELGIUM REPRESENTATIVE FROM MONTREAL POINTED TO DEALY IN MOVE TO NEW ICAO BUILDING, DUE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES OF CONTRACTOR. MOVE MIGHT BE DELAYED UNTIL END OF 1975, AND COULD RESULT IN CONSIDERABLE COST INCREASE.

(B) FRG, ITALY AND JAPAN COMMENTED ON PROLIFERATION OF LANGUAGES WITHIN UN SYSTEM, APPLAUDING ICAO PLAN FOR SECRETARIAT STUDY.

(C) ITALY THOUGHT FRG SOLUTION ADOPTED IN UN TO PROVIDE TRANSLATION SELECTED DOCUMENTS INTO GERMAN AT COST TO GERMANY WAS BRILLIANT SOLUTION TO DIFFICULT MATTER AND COULD BE USED BY OTHER MEMBERS WHO FELT STRONG NEED FOR BORADER ACCESS TO UN DOCUMENT OF WIDE INTEREST AT HOME. WOULD BE VERY CAUTIOUS ABOUT ADDITIONS TO GROUP OF WORKING LANGUAGES. JAPAN AGREED THERE SHOULD BE NO DISCRIMINATION OVER SUCH ARRANGEMENTS.

10. UNESCO.

(A) SWITZERLAND DREW ATTENTION TO PROPOSAL OF NEW DIRGEN TO INTENSIFY CONTACTS WITH A NUMBER OF GROUPS, INCLUDING GG PARIS. WHILE THIS SEEMED DERISABLE IN PRINCIPLE, IT COULD RAISE SERIOUS QUESTIONS OF A PRACTICAL NATURE. WOULD CONTACTS BE CARRIED OUT WITH CHAIRMAN OR SOME SELECT GROUP OF GG PARIS? WOULD THIS CUT ACROSS ROLE OF OECD AS EUROPEAN FORUM FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF QUESTIONS? HOW WOULD THIS AFFECT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE AGENCY AND PERMANENT DELEGATIONS IN PARIS? HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT FOR GG PARIS TO ADHERE STRICTLY TO PRESENT TERMS OF REFERENCE.

(B) FRANCE ALSO CONCERNED OVER DIRGEN'S APPROACH, COMMENDABLE AS IT APPEARED ON FIRST CONSIDERATION. CONSEQUENTLY, THEY WOULD BE CAUTIOU ABOUT PROCEEDING
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ALONG THIS SUGGESTION.

11. UNIDO.

(A) ITALY FELT THAT THERE WAS RISK OF DUPLICATION BETWEEN UNIDO AND OTHER AGENCIES. THEY WERE ALSO PRESSING FOR GREATER USE OF BUDGET FUNDS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, A PRACTICE U.S. HAD OPPOSED FOR SOME TIME.

(B) FRG STRESSED THAT UNIDO WAS NOT SPECIALIZED AGENCY, BUT SEEMED TO ACT AS THOUGH IT WERE, A TENDENCY THAT HAD TO BE RESISTED. ONE MEANS FOR COUNTERACTING THIS WAS TO RETAIN BUDGETARY RESPONSIBILITY AT UN LEVEL AND THIS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY WATCHED BY GG VIENNA.

(C) SWEDEN WAS AWARE OF THESE TENDENCIES, BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO GIVE THE ORGANIZATION AS MUCH INITIATIVE AS POSSIBLE. MORE AUTONOMY SEEMED DESIRABLE, WITHOUT LOSING CONTROL FROM THE UN SIDE. THE BOARD COULD EXERCISE SUCH CONTROL.

(D) BOTH JAPAN AND UK THOUGHT UN BUDGETARY CONTROL OVER UNIDO WAS VERY NECESSARY AT THIS STAGE. A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES SHARED THIS VIEW. UK FELT UNIDO HAS NOT YET ACQUIRED THAT STATUS NECESSARY TO TAKE MORE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS FINANCES THAN IS NOW THE CASE.

12. UPU.

(A) FRANCE SAID GROUP, WHEN TAKING UP AGENDA ITEM II, SHOULD NOTE REFERENCE TO USE BY UPU OF ITU COMPUTER AND CONSEQUENT ADVANTAGES OVER USE OF ICC FACILITIES.

13. WHO.

(A) FRG HAD NO DIFFICULTY WITH WHO BUDGET AND COOPERATION OF SECRETARIAT WITH GG HAS BEEN RATHER SATISFACTORY. NOTED THAT 13 PERCENT FIGURE FOR SUPPORT OF UNDP PROJECT OVERHEAD DOES NOT COVER ALL COSTS. THUS, SOCIALIST COUNTRIES DO CONTRIBUTE THROUGH REGULAR BUDGET TO ADDITIONAL SUPPORT OF THESE PROJECTS. BUT CAN LIVE WITH THE PRESENT DEFICITS ARISING FROM THIS SOURCE.

(B) SWEDEN COULDN'T AGREE WITH SO-CALLED FLAT RATE FOR ASSESSING OVERHEAD CHARGES ON UNDP PROJECT.

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IT DOESN'T ENCOURAGE AGENCIES TO EXERCISE GOOD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES NOR TO KEEP COSTS A MINIMUM. HOWEVER FLAT RATE OF 14 PERCENT HAS BEEN WORKING AND NO BETTER

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ARRANGEMENT IS IN VIEW. SINCE IT WILL BE OPERATING
ONLY FOR FURTHER THREE YEARS, HAVE NO NEW PROPOSALS
AT THIS TIME.

(C) UK AND BELGIUM FELT COULD ACCEPT 14 PERCENT; BUT
UK DOUBTED THAT THIS FUGURE WAS ANYWHERE NEAR REAL
COSTS OF OVERHEAD. OFTEN IMPOSSIBLE TO ISOLATE REAL

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COSTS WHEN PROGRAMS ARE INTERWINED TO ISOLATE REAL COSTS WHEN PROGRAMS ARE INTERTWINED WITH REGULAR PROGRAMS (UNESCO). WOULD SUPPORT SOME INCENTIVE MEASURE, CERTAINLY NOT FULL REIMBURSEMENT OF ALL COSTS. (D) ITALY IDIDN'T AGREE WITH PERCENTAGE INCREASES GIVEN IN REPORT. THE 1976 BUDGET APPEARS TO REPRESENT 10.4 PERCENT OVER THAT FOR 1975. FURTHER, THE BUDGET IS BASED ON CURRENCY VALUE OF 2.90 SWFR PER US DOLLAR. IF RATE CONTINUES ADVERSE, SIGNIFICANT BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS WOULD HAVE BE BE MADE.

14. WMO. GG REPORT WAS NOTED WITHOUT COMMENT.

15. UNEP.

(A) NETHERLANDS RECALLED THAT 11TH CONSULTATION HAD AGREED THAT TIME WAS NOT RIPE FOR SETTING UP GG NAIROBI. HIS DELEGATION FELT THAT THIS WAS STILL TRUE. FURTHER, THEY DID NOT SHARE VIEW IN SECRETARIAT THAT BIENNIAL MEETINGS WERE NOW SUFFICIENT.

(B) AUSTRALIA THOUGHT THAT BIENNIAL MEETINGS COULD BE ACCEPTED IF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAD THE BENEFIT OF FREQUENT GUIDANCE ON SPECIALIZED TOPICS FROM ADVOSORY GROUPS SET UP FOR PURPOSE.

(C) ITALY BELIVED THAT CONSULTATION IN NAIROBI COULD BE USEFUL, ESPECIALLY TO COUNTERACT TENDENCIES TOWARD PROPOSALS TO CONVERT UNEP INTO A SPECIALIZED AGENCY. ALSO, THERE IS PRESSURE FOR ENLARGEMENT OF STAFF TO CORRESPOND MORE CLOSELY WITH SIZE OF ENVIRONMENT FUND. HE ALSO NOTED SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW BUILDING, REPRESENTATIVE OF BEST IN ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING, ALL QUESTIONS THAT NEEDED CAREFUL WATCHING.

16. EXCEPT FOR ITEM I(B), THIS COMPLETED REVIEW OF LOCAL GENEVA GROUP ON AGENCIES. THERE WAS SURPRISING CONSENSUS OF VIEW, WITH MANY MEMBERS STRESSING NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY IN AGENCY PROGRAMS TO KEEP WITHIN BUDGET LIMITATIONS AND AT SAME TIME TO TAKE ON URGENT NEW TASKS.DALE

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